

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as shown in the complete claim set for this application. This listing of claims will replace all prior claims in the application:

1-20. (Cancelled)

21. (New) A method of operating a vehicle telematics device as a communication gateway, comprising the steps of:

receiving a transmission at the vehicle telematics device on a primary vehicle, wherein the transmission is sent from a wireless modem unit on a secondary vehicle equipped to communicate through a first communication protocol;

establishing communication between the vehicle telematics device on the primary vehicle and a service provider through a second communication protocol for which the secondary vehicle is not equipped;

establishing a communication gateway between the secondary vehicle and the service provider utilizing the vehicle telematics device on the primary vehicle; and

communicating data between the secondary vehicle and the service provider via the communication gateway.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the receiving step is carried out in response to a polling message transmitted from the primary vehicle.

23. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the receiving step further comprises receiving a request from the secondary vehicle to establish a communication gateway for the secondary vehicle to the service provider.

24. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the first communication protocol includes at least one communications protocol selected from the list consisting of: 802.11 series, Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, direct-sequence spread spectrum, frequency-hopping spread spectrum, and shared wireless access protocol.

25. **(New)** The method of claim 21, wherein the second communication protocol is a cellular packet protocol.

26. **(New)** The method of claim 21, further comprising the steps of:

receiving identification information from the secondary vehicle at the primary vehicle; and

transmitting the identification information from the primary vehicle to the service provider for authentication of the secondary vehicle.

27. **(New)** The method of claim 21, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a data stream for the communication gateway from the service provider, the data stream including instructions for the communication gateway; and

implementing the received instructions.

28. **(New)** The method of claim 21, further comprising the steps of:

receiving instructions in the form of a data stream from the vehicle telematics device of the primary vehicle; and

executing the instructions using one or more programs stored on the secondary vehicle.

29. **(New)** A method of operating a vehicle telematics device as a communication gateway, comprising the steps of:

detecting at the vehicle telematics device on a primary vehicle a wireless access point for a secondary vehicle;

establishing communication between the secondary vehicle and the vehicle telematics device on the primary vehicle utilizing a first communication protocol;

establishing communication between the vehicle telematics device on the primary vehicle and a service provider utilizing a second communication protocol not supported by the secondary vehicle; and

communicating software updates to the secondary vehicle from the service provider via the primary vehicle.

30. **(New)** The method of claim 29, wherein the secondary vehicle is not equipped to communicate through the second communication protocol.

31. **(New)** The method of claim 29, wherein the detecting step further comprises detecting a wireless modem unit on the secondary vehicle.

32. **(New)** The method of claim 29, wherein the detecting step further comprises receiving a transmission at the vehicle telematics device on the primary vehicle in response to a polling message transmitted from the primary vehicle.

33. **(New)** The method of claim 29, wherein the step of establishing communication between the secondary vehicle and the vehicle telematics device on the primary vehicle further comprises establishing communication between a wireless modem unit on the secondary vehicle and the vehicle telematics device on the primary vehicle.

34. **(New)** The method of claim 29, further comprising the steps of:
receiving a data stream for the secondary vehicle from the service provider, the data stream including instructions for the secondary vehicle; and
implementing the received instructions at the secondary vehicle.

35. **(New)** The method of claim 29, further comprising the steps of:
receiving instructions in the form of a data stream from the vehicle telematics device of the primary vehicle; and
executing the instructions using one or more programs stored on the secondary vehicle.

36. **(New)** The method of claim 29, further comprising the steps of:

storing the software updates from the service provider in a database located on the primary vehicle; and

updating the secondary vehicle with the software updates when communication is established between the primary vehicle and secondary vehicle.

37. **(New)** The method of claim 29, further comprising the steps of:

notifying the service provider of an identification of one or more secondary vehicles;

initiating one or more programs for updating software on the one or more secondary vehicles; and

providing software updates to the one or more secondary vehicles.

38. **(New)** A method of operating a vehicle telematics device as a communication gateway, comprising the steps of:

detecting at the vehicle telematics device on a primary vehicle a wireless access point to a local secondary vehicle;

establishing communication between the secondary vehicle and the primary vehicle utilizing a first communication protocol;

establishing communication between the vehicle telematics device on the primary vehicle and a service provider utilizing a second communication protocol not enabled on the secondary vehicle;

notifying the service provider from the vehicle telematics device of the identification of the secondary vehicle; and

communicating triggers to the secondary vehicle from the service provider via the primary vehicle.

39. **(New)** The method of claim 38, further comprising the steps of:

receiving instructions in the form of a data stream from the primary vehicle at the secondary vehicle; and

executing the instructions upon activation of the communicated triggers.

40. **(New)** The method of claim 38, further comprising the step of triggering the secondary vehicle to provide diagnostic data to the service provider via the primary vehicle.